

transverse girders which can be rigidly secured to the vehicle's chassis. The mechanism further includes front and rear masts, sprocketed wheels mounted on the masts to move the front and rear masts reciprocally, and a longitudinal beam which is coupled to the masts. The longitudinal beam can move up and down. Front and rear uprights extend downwardly from the longitudinal beam. The prongs are retractably engaged to the bottom of the uprights and are moved with hydraulic pistons.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Kindly amend claims 3-5, 7, 8, 12, 14, 16, 17, and 20.

3. (Amended) A fork lift as in claim 1 [or 2], further comprising a set of [4] four extendible strut poles rigidly secured to a chassis of said vehicle, for providing additional security against turning over of said vehicle during the process of loading and unloading.

4. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 1 [to 3], comprising retractable deck-plates for placement of cargo during transport.

5. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 1 [to 4], wherein said prongs comprise either horizontally or vertically pivotal prongs, wherein said prongs can be extended toward either side of said vehicle by their pivoting 180° or 90°.

7. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 1 [to 6], wherein said prongs are split prongs.

8. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 1 [to 7], wherein said mechanism for displacing said prongs comprises [a] front and [a] rear transverse girders adapted to be rigidly secured to a chassis of said vehicle, [a] front and [a] rear masts, means for simultaneously reciprocating said front and rear masts at their bottoms along said front and rear girders, correspondingly, a longitudinal beam coupled to said front and rear masts, means for reciprocating said beam in a downward-upward motion along said front and rear masts, respectively, [a] front and [a] rear uprights extending downward from said beam, said prongs [comprise a] comprising front and [a] rear transverse prongs retractably engaged to the bottoms of said front and rear uprights, correspondingly, and means for extending said front and rear transverse prongs from said


front and rear uprights, correspondingly, toward either side of said vehicle.

12. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 8 [to 11], wherein said means for simultaneously reciprocating said front and rear masts along said front and rear girders, comprise sprocket wheels, wherein at least one sprocket wheel is mounted on each mast and is turned against mating toothed sprocket bars which are mounted on said front and rear girders, respectively.

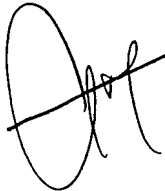
14. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 8 [to 13], comprising a boom to which said front and rear masts are coupled at their tops.

16. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 8 [to 15], wherein said means for extending said front and rear transverse prongs from said front and rear uprights, comprises sprocket wheels, each having a hydraulic drive, wherein each sprocket wheel is mounted on each upright and is turned against mating toothed sprocket bars which are mounted on said front and rear transverse prongs.

17. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 1 [to 7], wherein said mechanism for displacing said

 prongs comprises [a] front and [a] rear heightened transverse girders rigidly secured to a chassis of a vehicle, a longitudinal beam mounted to said front and rear girders, means for reciprocating said beam along said front and rear girders, front and rear uprights extending downward from said beam, said prongs [comprise a] comprising front and [a] rear transverse prongs retractably engaged to the bottoms of said front and rear uprights, correspondingly, means for extending said front and rear transverse prongs from said front and rear uprights, correspondingly, toward either side of said vehicle.

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 20. (Amended) A fork lift as in [any of the claims] claim 1 [to 18], wherein said mechanism for displacing said prongs comprises a front and a rear arches adapted to be rigidly secured to a chassis of said vehicle, a longitudinal beam mounted on said front and rear arches, means for driving said beam along said arches, said prongs [comprise a] comprising front and [a] rear transverse prongs retractably engaged to said beam, means for extending said front and rear transverse prongs from said beam toward either side of said vehicle, and means for retaining said prongs in a horizontal configuration.

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Please cancel claim 21.